

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINGST 03135 122154Z

63

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 L-03 H-03 ARA-10 ISO-00 /017 W

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P 122130Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2894

UNCLAS KINGSTON 3135

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS,JM (LUFFRED, ANTHONY)

SUBJ: INVESTIGATIVE REPORT OF ACCIDENT

REF: STATE 157545 AND PREVIOUS; TELECON SCS/KINGSTON SEP 12, 1973

INTEREST CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS

1. THE EMBASSY HAD DETERMINED SOMETIME SUBSEQUENT TO THE RECEIPT OF THE DEPTS OM OF AUG 1, 1973 THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE WHICH HAD FIGURED IN THE ACCIDENT IN QUESTION WAS OWNED BY A COMPANY NAMED PINEAPPLE RENT A CAR LTD. THE COMPANY WAS CONTACTED TELEPHONICALLY AT ITS LOCATION NEAR THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT, AND THEY INDICATED THAT NAY OFFICIAL REPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE OBTAINED FROM THEIR MONTEGO BAY OFFICE, WHICH APPARENTLY IS THE BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE COMPANY. SUCH REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE ORALLY BY TELEPHONE, BUT THE REPORT HAS NOT YET BEEN FORTHCOMING; A FURTHER REQUEST WAS MADE UPON RECEIPT OF THE REFERENCED CALL OF THIS DATE.

2. INFORMALLY, DURING THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TO PINEAPPLE, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COMPANY STATED THAT THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE WAS, IN FACT, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COMPANY, THAT HE HAD BEEN DESPATCHED IN ONE OF THE COMPANY'S RENTAL CARS TO THE LOCAL POST OFFICE; THAT HE HAD SEEN A GROUP OF YOUNG TOURISTS EITHER HITCH-HIKING OR OTHERWISE SOLICITING A RIDE; THAT HE STOPPED AND AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT HE WOULD TAKE THEM TO THEIR PROPOSED DESTINATION FOR FIFTY CENTS EACH; THAT DURING THE RIDE HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RUN OVER A MONGOOSE (WHICH RUN WILD IN JAMAICA), PURPORTEDLY SAYING "THIS IS HOW WE KILL MONGOOSES IN JAMAICA*" IN THE COURSE OF DOING SO, THE DRIVER LOST CONTROL OF THE

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CAR, RAN INTO A WALL OR CULVERT, AND THE DEATHS AND INJURIES

ENSUED. IN VIEW OF THE TENUOUS NATURE OF THE FOREGOING, AS REGARDS
HEARSAY AND EVIDENTIARY VALUE, IT WAS NOT FELT APPROPRIATE BY
THE RESPONSIBLE CONSULAR OFFICER TO MAKE AN INTERIM REPORT (AS
REQUESTED IN YOUR 157545) WITHOUT THE OFFICIAL WRITTEN REPORT
OF THE RENTAL COMPANY.

3. THE POLICE STATION IN ST. ANN'S BAY HAS BEEN CONTACTED TO
OBTAIN THEIR OFFICIAL REPORT. THEY HAVE PROMISED TO FORWARD
SAME.

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